REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	23 April 1998
Name of applicant/court:	Comptroller of Customs
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	Seaman Studs
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Director:	Not Applicable
Producer:	Not Applicable
Publisher:	Star Distributors Ltd
Author:	Not Stated
Format:	Book
Country of Origin:	USA
Language:	English

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Components of film originally examined: Not Applicable.

Feature:	Running time:
Trailers:	Running time:
	Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision: Not Applicable.

Classification Decision:

Objectionable.

Display Conditions:

Not Applicable.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:
The book entitled *Seaman Studs* is classified as:
Objectionable.
The publication meets two criteria under s3(2) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act (FVPC Act). The Classification Office considers that the publication promotes and suports the use of violence and coercion to compel persons to participate in, or submit to, sexual conduct. The two main characters are held against their will and forced to submit to, and participate in, sexual conduct with seamen. Extensive use of adjectives and the explicit nature of the descriptions of sexually violent acts demonstrate an intention to titillate the reader. Furthermore, that victims of coercion and sexual assault enjoy, or are ambiguous about their experiences in the publication, strengthens the likelihood that the reader will see coercion and violence as legitimate and attractive means to engaging others in sexual conduct.

The Classification Office also considers that the publication tends to promote and support acts of torture, the infliction of extreme violence and the infliction of extreme cruelty. There is a great deal of violence and cruelty in the publication, much of which is considered extreme in degree. For example, physical blows resulting in unconsciousness, and relentless sexual violation. The sexual context within which these acts occur, and the titillatory manner of description, result in the book tending to promote and support the acts.

The New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (NZBR Act) has been considered in relation to this publication. Although the book presents as fiction, it has a tendency to promote and support and promote and support criteria under s3(2) of the FVPC Act and is therefore deemed objectionable. Section 3(2) of the FVPC Act takes precedence over s14 of the NZBR Act and so no further consideration need be given to s14.

OFLC Ref: 9700846